



BELLINGHAM

Norfolk County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Bellingham is a moderate sized residential community situated on the southwestern semi-rural fringe of metropolitan Boston. Although settled since the colonial era, the town has never experienced any prolonged periods of intensive industrial or commercial development. Bellingham evolved from agricultural village to rural small town and to bedroom suburb without becoming an important economic center. However, this pattern of unbalanced growth is now changing.

The dramatic upsurge in business activity in Bellingham is a consequence of many factors. Certainly the heavy development of Boston's inner suburbs, and especially the towns along Route 128 with the accompanying problems of land shortages, rising prices and congestion have led business decision-makers to look to the I-495 area. Additionally, Bellingham has a much improved business climate, the result of changing local attitudes and improvements in public infrastructure. The town is also attracting able and committed developers. Unlike the past, Bellingham is now prepared for and strongly interested in economic growth.

Bellingham also has a strong commitment to providing good municipal services. This commitment is best typified by the recent construction of a new library, fire station and elementary school, as well as recent improvements in the town's playgrounds and ball fields.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Franklin and Wrentham on the east; Woonsocket, Rhode Island, on the south; Blackstone, Mendon, and Hopedale on the west; and Milford and Medway on the north. Bellingham is 25 miles southeast of Worcester; 30 miles southwest of Boston; 27 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and 185 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 18.99 sq. miles

Land Area: 18.50 sq. miles

Population: 14,877

Density: 804 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(West Medway Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Franklin, Holliston, Blackstone

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 966-0040

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1719

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	7,956		
Democrats	2,986	37.5	%
Republicans	961	12.1	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,008	50.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Bellingham town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	15,314	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	15,314	100.0
Male.....	7,503	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	184	1.2
Female.....	7,811	51.0	Mexican.....	23	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,077	7.0	Puerto Rican.....	84	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	1,172	7.7	Cuban.....	10	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,233	8.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	67	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	907	5.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,130	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	576	3.8	White alone.....	14,717	96.1
25 to 34 years.....	2,301	15.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,000	19.6	Total population.....	15,314	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,211	14.4	In households.....	15,297	99.9
55 to 59 years.....	764	5.0	Householder.....	5,557	36.3
60 to 64 years.....	590	3.9	Spouse.....	3,588	23.4
65 to 74 years.....	903	5.9	Child.....	5,056	33.0
75 to 84 years.....	483	3.2	Own child under 18 years.....	3,847	25.1
85 years and over.....	97	0.6	Other relatives.....	553	3.6
Median age (years).....	36.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	203	1.3
18 years and over.....	11,204	73.2	Nonrelatives.....	543	3.5
Male.....	5,436	35.5	Unmarried partner.....	307	2.0
Female.....	5,768	37.7	In group quarters.....	17	0.1
21 years and over.....	10,811	70.6	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,818	11.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	17	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,483	9.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	640	4.2	Total households.....	5,557	100.0
Female.....	843	5.5	Family households (families).....	4,282	77.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,104	37.9
One race.....	15,185	99.2	Married-couple family.....	3,588	64.6
White.....	14,844	96.9	With own children under 18 years.....	1,746	31.4
Black or African American.....	140	0.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	492	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	19	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	259	4.7
Asian.....	131	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	1,275	22.9
Asian Indian.....	34	0.2	Householder living alone.....	1,010	18.2
Chinese.....	38	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	340	6.1
Filipino.....	13	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,246	40.4
Japanese.....	12	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,076	19.4
Korean.....	15	0.1	Average household size.....	2.75	(X)
Vietnamese.....	9	0.1	Average family size.....	3.15	(X)
Other Asian ¹	10	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	-	Total housing units.....	5,642	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	5,557	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	85	1.5
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	10	0.2
Some other race.....	46	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	129	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	5,557	100.0
White.....	14,958	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,658	83.8
Black or African American.....	172	1.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	899	16.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	63	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.87	(X)
Asian.....	174	1.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.13	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	17	0.1			
Some other race.....	73	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 123

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 24

Federal (Section 8): 30



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Public roads and highways in the area are generally in good condition and meet the demands of modern transportation.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 126 and 140, and Interstate 495, the "Outer Belt" around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, is available in neighboring Franklin. Travel time from Forge Park to BBS: 49-61 min.; 722 MBTA parking spaces available.

Bus

Bellingham is not affiliated with any rapid transit authority.

Other

The Norfolk Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,700' asphalt runway with a copter approach.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.